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# **FANTASTIC GARDENS**

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**Gesneriad List**  
**1953**





# *Fantastic Gardens*

*R. G. Wilson*

9550 S. W. 67TH AVENUE  
SOUTH MIAMI 43, FLA.

## **GESNERIAD LIST 1953**

I know you folks will have lots of questions pertaining to these new plants and I wish I could answer them all fully, but at the present time I am not able to publish the complete catalog that both you and I would like. Any public library should have Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture and I am referring to this constantly for tips on culture and suggest that you do the same thing. And this brings up also the subject of names. We are trying our best to avoid confusion, but to straighten out the existing confusion is not only difficult, but in some cases, impossible. We have changed a few names this year, putting last year's names (or synonyms) in parentheses.

In most cases the plants we ship are out of 2½" pots and have been grown to the maximum size for this pot. In some few cases, where the plant is naturally a large grower, they are from 3" and occasionally 4" pots. You should be prepared when receiving shipment to plant them in a larger container.

GENERAL TERMS: Cash with order. We ship Prepaid by Parcel Post on all orders of \$3.00 or more to any point in the United States. On orders of less than \$3.00, please include 50¢ to cover cost of postage, packing and handling. Certain of these plants rest after flowering, and if your order arrives when they are dormant, we will supply bulbs or tubers.

In the event that the rumored increase of 33 1/3% in postal rates becomes effective, we will be unable to absorb this additional expense as we are already handling these plants at a minimum of profit. If this should come about, we will have to ask 75¢ on orders less than \$3.00 and an additional 5% of the total cost of the plants on all other orders.

Although we send all shipments Parcel Post, we have found that the Special Delivery service of the U.S. Mails is a better method for live plants and we strongly recommend it. If you wish this service, please add 45¢ to your order, or, in the case of increased special delivery rates, the equivalent of this.

Air Mail is, of course, the most satisfactory method, but it is expensive, usually 80¢ per pound and a two pound package would be a minimum shipment. Please estimate the amount of the air mail postage and add to your order. Up to three plants usually weigh 2 lbs.; 4 to 15 plants - 2 to 10 lbs.; and over 15 plants over 10 lbs.

We will ship by prepaid Railway Express on orders over \$20. This is a more satisfactory method of shipping than parcel post. Packages are handled more carefully than in the mails and any claim for goods damaged in shipment are taken care of. If you want smaller orders of plants delivered by Railway Express, please tell us and we will send them Express Collect.

We want you to receive your shipment in the best of condition and we take all possible precautions to ship healthy plants packed in such a way as to avoid any damage in transit. We have had so many customers tell us how perfect the plants look on arrival, that we are satisfied that our method of packing is hard to improve upon. We feel that our responsibility is ended when we deliver your package to the carrier. But, as mistakes can happen, if on arrival your plants seem damaged because you believe there was some mistake made in packing (not damage due to mishandling or delay by the carrier) write us full details and we will be glad to make proper adjustment if we feel the fault was ours. Most damage is caused by mishandling or delay in transit, and if your order was sent by Railway Express (not Mail) your express agent will help you get an adjustment.



## CULTURE OF GESNERIADS

In general, the culture of all Gesneriads is similar. They prefer a loose, sandy soil with plenty of half-rotted leafmold and fibrous peat with some fine charcoal added, and a small amount of dried sheep manure and bonemeal. Soil and pots must be sterile and free of nematodes. Put extra good drainage in the bottom of the pot. Some of them, *Columneas* and *Trichosporums* in particular, are epiphytic in habit and my best results have been obtained when I have grown them in shredded *osmunda* mixed with a smaller proportion of leafmold, making sure the drainage is perfect.

Most Gesneriads will develop water spots on the foliage from overhead watering with cold water when the air temperature is high. The rules for fertilizing African Violets hold true for these other relatives -- liquid fertilizer applied about every two weeks during growth is sufficient.

The bulbous types, *Gesneria*, *Isoloma*, *Gloxinia*, *Naegelia*, *Sinningia*, etc. take a rest after their blooming period is over and water should be applied only often enough to keep the bulbs from shrinking when they are dormant. A brighter light exposure than you have found best for African Violets will be just about right for most other Gesneriads.

Gesneriads make ideal House plants as they have such striking foliage plus beautiful flowers. They are also good greenhouse plants providing the temperature is kept above 60°F.

ACHIMENES - bulbs only, available March through May

The following are trailing plants, good for hanging baskets:

Mexicana - medium lavender blue

Purity - pure white

Master Ingraham - brick red

Grandiflora - fls. large, medium blue

Periwinkle - bright blue purple

Andersoni - medium blue

Longiflora - light lavender blue

\* Little Beauty - rich, clear pink

\* Vivid - bright magenta

\* Pansy - fls. large, purple blue

These varieties are dwarf, compact plants:

Venusta - small double dark purple flowers

Purple King - large flowers, rich purple

Robusta - this is a strong, upright plant with magenta flowers.

6 of a kind for 50¢; except those marked \* which are 6 for 75¢. Please do not ask us to send less than 6 of a kind of named varieties.

Mixture - 12 different, our selection, unlabeled for 75¢.  
2 each of 10 kinds, our selection named for \$1.75

## CULTURE

Achimenes bulbs are very tiny, but don't let this fool you. When they start to grow, they grow to beat the band. Do not underpot them. A single bulb will fill a 4" pot in a season, 3 bulbs to a 5" pot will make a lovely potful. Plant them in very fibrous leafmold and peat with some sand added and make sure drainage is good. They want good moisture when growing but cannot stand wet feet. Give them lots of bright light and fertilize often.



## HYBRID GLOXINIAS - bulbs only

Tigrina - The coloring of this type consists of a myriad of fine dots closely placed on a background of white, which in some cases makes them appear almost a solid color. These are mixed bulbs, the color range being pink, blue, purple and red.

Emperor Frederick - Scarlet bordered with white.

35¢ each 3 for \$1.00

Emperor William - Violet bordered with white

35¢ each 3 for \$1.00

Roi de Rouges - brilliant crimson scarlet, huge flower, beautifully frilled.

45¢ each 3 for \$1.25

Mont Blanc - Clear, glistening white

45¢ each 3 for \$1.25

Violaceae - soft violet

45¢ each 3 for \$1.25

The bulbs priced at 35¢ are 1½" to 2" in diam. and the ones at 45¢ are 2" and larger in diameter.

Collection of 5 varieties, all different \$1.75

Collection of 5 unnamed hybrids, smaller tubers \$1.00

We start shipping Gloxinia tubers in March, but as we ship dormant tubers only, offer is good in the spring only.

## CULTURE OF GLOXINIAS

These dormant tubers are best started in loose fibrous peat kept just damp until root growth is out about an inch. Then lift and pot (leaving the peat attached to the roots) in a mixture of one part loam, 3 parts leafmold, 2 parts fibrous peat and 2 parts sand, with about one teaspoonful of bonemeal to each pot. Use clean 5" pots for each bulb, placing good drainage in the bottom of the pot. Pot loosely and cover the top of the bulb about 1". Give very bright indirect light from the beginning and feed once a week with your favorite liquid fertilizer.

## EPISCIAS

EPISCIAS are very tender tropical plants, all of which have beautiful foliage and most have brilliant scarlet flowers. All except *E. tessellata* are trailing plants and make beautiful hanging baskets. Keep from cold drafts as *Episcias* "freeze" at 55° F.

### Red-flowered varieties:

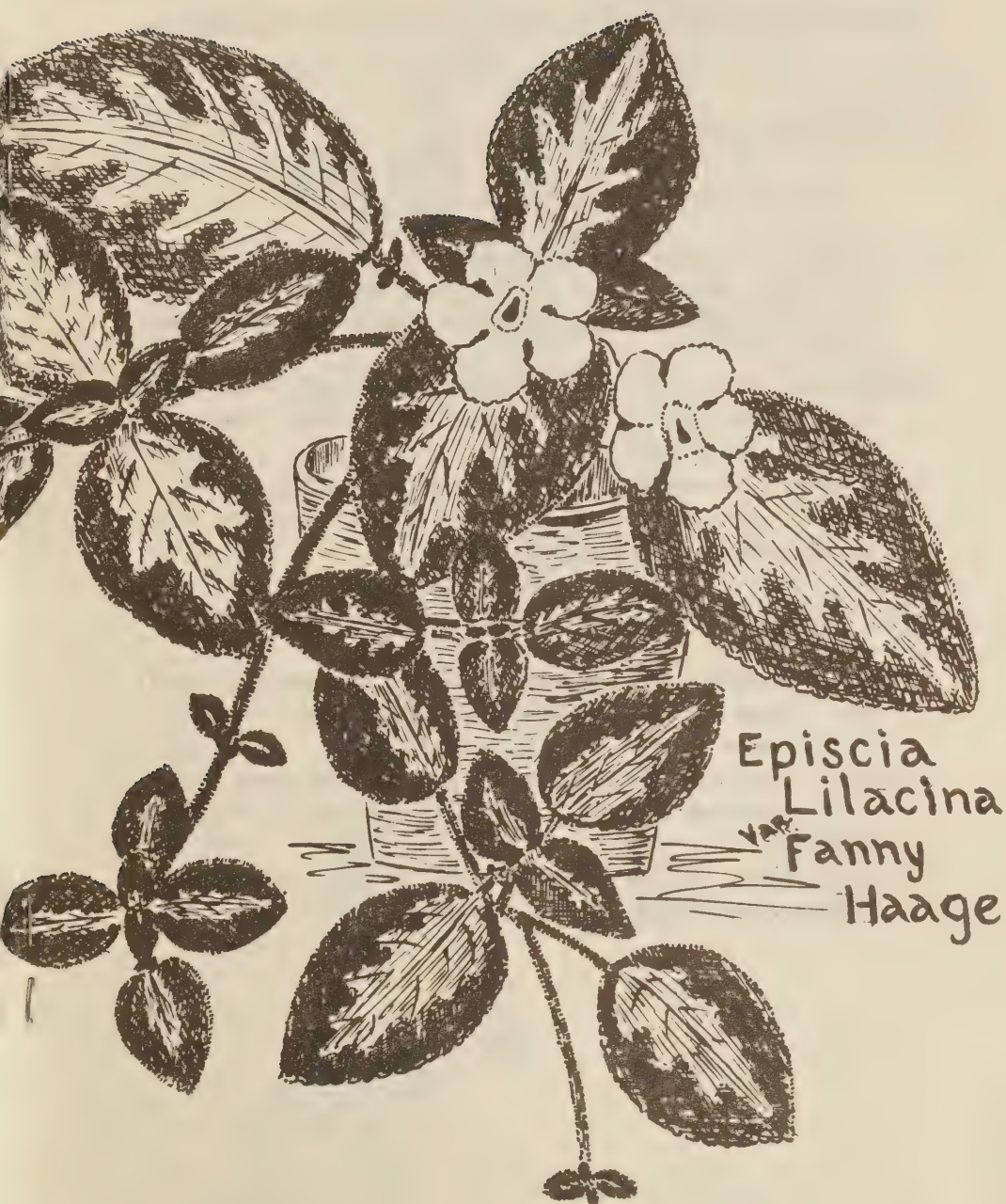
- Episcia Acajou* - very broad fern-pattern of silvery green on a dark mahogany background \$1.00
- Episcia Chocolate Soldier* - leaf very dark chocolate with narrow silver midrib \$1.00
- Episcia coccinea* (*E. fulgida*) - large brown leaves with bright silvery green veins .75
- Episcia cupreata* - hairy, copper-colored leaves .75
- Episcia cupreata* var. *Silver Sheen* - leaves bright silver with darker margins \$1.00
- Episcia cupreata* var. *viridifolia* - smooth, Nile-green leaves; best bloomer .75
- Episcia Emerald Queen* - hairy, emerald green leaves with narrow silver mid-rib and veins \$1.00
- Episcia Frosty* - frosted, downy, emerald green leaves with wide silver midrib \$1.00
- Episcia Harlequin* - smooth, shiny leaves, very dark brown edges contrasted with central pattern of greenish white (dark sport of *E. Splendens*) .75
- Episcia Kitty* - This has been distributed under various names and is our "sp. No. 2" last year. Leaves bronze with lilac midrib, soft as kitten fur .75
- Episcia Silvan Beauty* - our "sp. No. 1" last year. Smooth silvery green leaves with medium brown margins .75
- Episcia splendens* - a very pretty robust grower with broad silver markings on an emerald green background .75

### Blue-flowered varieties:

- Episcia chontalensis* - small dark green leaves, light blue fringed flowers, fall bloomer .75
- Episcia lilacina* - large hairy bronzy leaves; large blue flowers in spring and summer floriferous 1.50
- Episcia lilacina* var. *Mrs. Fanny Haage* - our "Sp. nova No. 3" last year. Very beautiful foliage, broad pattern of green; flowers as in *lilacina*. Most desirable. 1.75









Yellow-flowered variety :

*Episcia tessellata* (Syn. *Centrosolenia bullata* and *Nautilocalyx bullatus*) - This is distinct from all the others. Upright growing with large glossy bubbly brown leaves, and creamy-yellow flowers. A very unusual foliage plant \$1.25

Collection of 8 varieties of *Episcias*, our selection labeled \$5.50

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AESCHYNANTHUS - see *Trischosporum*

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*ALLOPLECTUS capitatus* - large, erect growing; leaves to one foot long, velvety green overlaid with beautiful red hairs. Flowers in dense heads, red. Very choice and rare. Stock very limited \$3.00

*Alloplectus sanguineus* - stiff, trailing plant with large hairy leaves green on top and blotched with dark shiny red beneath. Stock very limited \$2.50

*Alloplectus* - Unnamed species - similar to *A. sanguineus* but redder under the leaves. Tubular yellow flowers with purplish lines. Stock very limited \$2.50

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COLUMNEA - for attractive trailing plants, these cannot be excelled

*Columnea Banksii* (*C. Oerstediana* x *C. Schiediana*) small dark green glossy leaves, red underneath; flowers russet-orange \$1.00

*Columnea gloriosa* - trailing stems to five feet long; small hairy brownish leaves; large fiery red tubular flowers. Very choice \$1.50

*Columnea hirta* - leaves and stems densely covered with reddish-brown hairs; flowers vermillion \$1.50



*Columnea  
Gloriosa*

*Columnnea Kewensis* - plant similar to *C. Schiediana*. Leaves  
 4" long, flowers tubular, red mottled with cream. \$1.00  
*Columnnea Schiediana* - strong grower, 4" pointed leaves,  
 flowers brick red, spotted .75  
*Columnnea tulae* var. *flava* - soft green leaves; clear yellow  
 tubular flowers; fruit round snow white \$1.00  
*Columnnea localis* - stiff trailer; leaves large green; profuse  
 bloomer, flowers large, scarlet shaped like *C. glor-*  
*iosa* \$1.75

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*DRYMONIA mollis* - Habit and general appearance like an  
*Episcia*. Leaves green, flowers creamy spotted with  
 maroon .75

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*GESNERIA lindeni* - beautifully veined velvety leaves,  
 flowers blue and white .75  
*Gesneria macrantha* - velvety, emerald green leaves, cardinal-  
 red tubular flowers. Available after June 15th .75

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*GLOXINIA perennis* - This is a true *Gloxinia* species (not  
*Sinningia*). Tall growing with large leaves and downy  
 light blue flowers, like Canterbury Bells. Has scaly bulbs  
 like *Achimenes* \$1.25

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*HYPÖCYRTA nummularia* - a small, compact trailing plant  
 with 1" leaves; becomes dotted with flowers that look  
 like red and yellow candy. Order early as plants are dor-  
 mant in mid-summer. .75



ISOLOMA - This genus now includes the Kohlerias and the Tydeas.

Isoloma amabile - (Kohleria semanii)- Leaves light green overlaid with beautiful pattern of brown. Plant almost continuous bloomer when older with heavy sprays of pink flowers. Good basket plant. \$1.00

Isoloma pictus - (Kohleria picta) - Plant trailing with age, interesting chocolate leaves, flowers bright red .75

Isoloma Ceciliae - very choice; compact habit, downy chocolate-colored leaves. flowers brilliant rose. Stock limited. \$2.00

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NAEGELIA - besides having a bright display of nodding bells in brilliant colors, these plants have the most beautiful leaves imaginable. Shipped as bulbs in spring and early summer, then plants.

Naegelia cinnebarina - leaves like maroon velvet, flowers red \$1.50

Naegelia Rose Queen . Leaves green mottled with purple, flowers rose. Stock very limited, as long as they last \$2.50

Naegelia Yellow hybrids - mixed seedlings, leaves all green, or mottled, flowers in shades of yellow \$1.50

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RECHSTEINERIA macropoda - Sinningia-like plant; large green leaves; flowers tubular, orange red. Tubers like Gloxinia \$1.50

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SAINTPAULIA - This is the genus of the African Violets. Please do not ask us to ship named varieties. We only ship the two species below.

*Saintpaulia diplotricha* (*S. kewensis*) - leaves thin, firm, felted  
 with white hairs, light blue flowers \$1.25  
*Saintpaulia grotei* - The trailing African Violet, flowers light  
 blue \$1.25

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*SINNINGIA speciosa* (*S. regina*) - beautiful dark velvety leaves  
 veined with white; dark purple slipper-type gloxinia  
 flowers \$1.50  
*Sinningia maximiliana* - gloxinia-like plants with slipper-type  
 white flowers, throat marked with purple or yellow \$1.00

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*STREPTOCARPUS nobilis* (*S. gardeni*) - strap-shaped leaves.  
 light blue flowers .75  
*Streptocarpus*, English hybrids - strap-shaped leaves lying  
 flat on ground, flowers large, in shades of pink, blue and  
 lavender. Seedlings ready to flower. \$1.50  
*Streptocarpus* Wiesmoor Hybrids - New strain with very large  
 flowers in wide range of colors. Can be used as cut  
 flowers. Seeds - .75 pkt. Plants after Aug. 1st \$1.75

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*TRICHOSPORUM* - Interesting genus of trailing plants. Also  
 called *Aeschynanthus*.

*Trichosporum pulchrum* - Leaves very dark green; flowers  
 scarlet growing out of dark purple cups on tips of  
 branches \$1.00  
*Trichosporum splendens* (*T. lobbians*) - hard, waxy green  
 leaves, brilliant orange flowers on tips of branches,  
 blooms in fall. .75  
*Trichosporum marmoratum* - Light green leaves mottled on top  
 with darker green and underneath with maroon .75

TYDEA - See *Isoloma*

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Address all correspondence to Fantastic Gardens, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue, South Miami 43, Florida. Our correspondence is very heavy and, although we love to talk plants and horticultural problems with people, we are now so completely occupied with business matters that we just haven't the time, so please be very direct when writing us. We are not prepared to answer questions pertaining to (or to ship) plants that are not listed. This list cancels all previous lists of Gesneriads.



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